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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF POMOLOGY

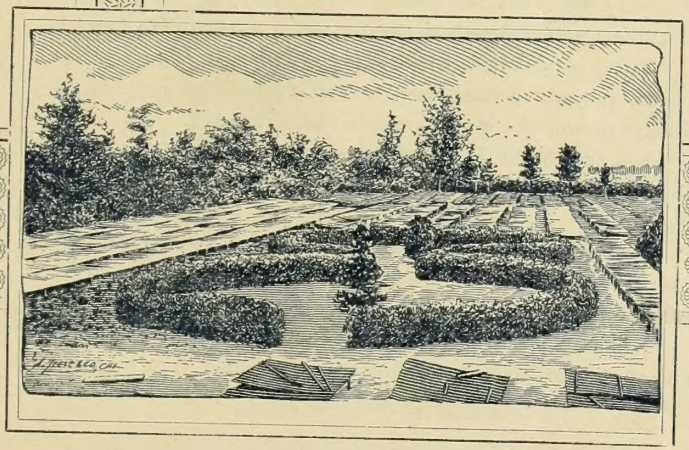
Catalogue of the Osage Nurseries

ESTABLISHED IN 1869

GARDNER & SONS

PROPRIETORS

Lock Box 74 OSAGE, IOWA



OUR TREES ARE ALL NURSERY GROWN. NO WILD OR IMPORTED EVERGREENS OFFERED AT ANY PRICE

FALL AND SPRING, 1892-3

H. E. TUTTLE, PRINT, OSAGE, IA.

Descriptive Catalogue.

To Our Patrons:—

In presenting this catalogue for the fall of 1892 and spring of 1893, we desire to extend our thanks for the very liberal patronage bestowed upon us in the past, and hope by close attention to the interests of those who favor us with orders, to merit a continuance of the same in the future.

While we are anxious to obtain new customers, we have just as great a desire to retain present ones. To do this we expect to treat them well, and we have the disposition and ability to do so.

Prices in this catalogue are as low as first-class, nursery grown plants, properly packed, can be furnished. Our stock is all nursery grown, on our own grounds, and is very fine.

We pack in the best possible manner, and as light as is consistent with safety. All plants packed in moss. Boxing and baling free.

Our stock is first-class in every respect. We guarantee good plants and full count. We grow all our evergreens from seed, which is much better than imported stock.

No matter how lately or how often you have written us, always give your name, postoffice, county and state in full.

GUARANTEE OF GENUINENESS.

While we exercise the greatest diligence and care to have our stock true to label, it is mutually agreed between ourselves and the purchaser that our guarantee of genuineness shall in no case make us liable for any sum greater than that originally charged for the stock that proves untrue.

Address GARDNER & SONS, Osage, Iowa.

Fruit Department.

APPLES.

	Each	10	100
Standard, First-class, 5 to 7 ft.	$ 35	$3 00	$25 00
" " 4 to 5 ft.	25	2 00	18 00

Above prices on apples except where otherwise noted.

Duchess of Oldenburg. Russian, medium to large size; skin yellow streaked with red, and somewhat blushed, sometimes with a faint blue bloom; flesh juicy and good, with a rich, sub-acid flavor. Sept.

Tetofsky. A Russian apple which has proved profitable for market growing. The tree is an upright, spreading grower; forming an open head; comes into bearing extremely early, usually the second year after transplanting, and bears every year. Hardy as a Crab. Fruit good size, nearly round, yellow, beautifully striped with red; flesh white, juicy, pleasant, acid, aromatic. August.

Yellow Transparent. Of Russian origin but now planted east, west, north and south, and succeeds everywhere as a very hardy, early ripening, excellent variety. Sept.

Fameuse. Tree very hardy and productive; well suited to cold sections; fruit of first quality; flesh white; fine grained crisp and juicy; will keep until mid-winter.

Hibernal. One of the new Russian varieties. A perfect iron-clad in constitution; ripens in the early fall; quality and appearance like the Duchess.

Wealthy. New and valuable; originated in Minnesota; tree hardy and productive; flesh fine grained, white and tender. Will keep all winter.

Talmon Sweet. Tree vigorous, upright grower and very productive. Apple firm, rich and very sweet. Winter.

Patten's Greening. A seedling of the Duchess and its equal as an orchard tree in hardiness and bearing. Large uniform size; pleasant acid; good quality for eating or cooking. Winter. 4 to 5 feet, each 50 cts. $4 per 10.

CRAB APPLES

Hyslop. Almost as large as Early Strawberry Apple, deep crimson, very popular on account of its large size, beauty and hardiness. October and November.

Martha. A seedling of Duchess of Oldenburg, which originated in Minnesota. Earlier and far better than the Transcendent. Very ornamental as well as a fine fruit; bears in profusion every year.

Transcendent. Tree productive, fruit from one and a half to two inches in diameter; excellent for sauce and pies, and is also a good eating apple. Skin yellow, striped with red. Sept. and Oct.

Whitney's Seedling Siberian. Large, averaging one and a half to two inches in diameter; skin smooth, glossy green, striped and splashed with carmine; flesh firm, juicy and rich. A great bearer and very hardy. Tree a vigorous, handsome grower, with dark green glossy foliage.

PEARS

Standard first-class 4 to 5 ft., each $1.00, per 10 $8.00.

Longworth's No. 1. An Iowa seedling absolutely hardy and blight proof. Medium size sweet and good.

Idaho. In size it is of the largest; color greenish yellow with russety spots; flesh melting, juicy, entirely free from gritty texture flavor rich; sprightly vinous.

PLUMS

3 to 4 ft., each 50 cts., per 10 $4.00.

Wolf. A free stone; originated near Clarinda, Iowa, and has been tested twenty-seven years without a failure. Fruits very heavy with us.

De Soto. Medium; bright red; sweet, rich, of fine quality. Extremely hardy and productive.

Miner. An improved variety of the Chickasaw. Medium size; oblong pointed at apex; skin dark, purplish red, slightly mottled with fine bloom; flesh soft, juicy, vinous and adheres to the stone. Excellent for canning and cooking. Productive.

German Prune. A very hardy vigorous variety esteemed for drying. Very sweet; color purple black. This valuable variety is as hardy with us as the Duchess apple. Has fruited very heavy for the last four years. The finest in the plum line. 4 to 5 ft. $1. each. $8 per ten.

Address GARDNER & SONS, Osage, Iowa.

CHERRIES

3 to 4 ft., each 50 cts., per 10 $4.00.

Ostheime. A native of Russia; it has been tested in the severest winters of Minnesota, and found to be perfectly hardy. A young and profuse bearer; flesh reddish, tender and juicy; sub-acid. Very good. Season July. Morello class.

Early Richmond. Medium size, dark red; melting, juicy, sprightly, acid flavor. This is one of the most valuable and popular of the acid cherries, and is unsurpassed for cooking purposes, and is exceedingly productive.

Wragg. Originated in Iowa. Medium to large in size, long stem, dark purple when fully ripe. A variety well adapted for the high latitudes and prairie regions of the Northwest.

Sand Cherry. A fine dwarf cherry, large and delicious. Native of Nebraska and Dakota. Very hardy.

CURRANTS

Except where otherwise noted, each 10 cts., per dozen 75 cts.

Red Dutch. An old and thrifty growing sort; very productive.

Long Bunch Holland. Fruit very large; bunches long.

Victoria. Ripens from two to three weeks later than other varieties and hangs on the bushes until the frost takes them.

Fays Prolific. Fruit very large and handsome; very productive. The finest red currant grown. Each 50 cts., $4.50 per doz.

White Dutch. The standard variety of this color.

White Grape. A productive and excellent sort.

GOOSEBERRIES

Except where otherwise noted, each 25 cts., per dozen $2.50.

Houghton's Seedling. A medium sized American variety, which bears abundant and regular crops, and never mildews; fruit smooth, red; tender and very good; very valuable.

Downing. Fruit larger than Houghton; roundish, light green, with distinct veins, skin smooth, flesh rather soft, juicy and very good; vigorous and very productive.

Smith's Improved. Large oval, light green, with bloom; flesh moderately firm, sweet and good; vigorous grower.

Industry. A vigorous grower and very productive. Exempt from mildew. Fruit from two to three times as large as common varieties. Best gooseberry grown. Fruits very heavy with us. 50c. each. $4.50 per. dozen.

GRAPES

Each, 35 cts., per dozen, $3.50.

Moores Early. Black. A very early variety and exceedingly hardy fruit of large size and good quality. Ripens about two weeks earlier than Concord.

Concord. A well known variety very hardy.

Wordon. Very much like the Concord in growth and appearance; ripens earlier and is superior in quality; color black. The best grape for the north.

Delaware. Still holds its own as one of the finest grapes; bunches small, compact, shouldered; berries rather small, round; skin thin; flesh very juicy, without any hard pulp, an exceedingly sweet, spicy and delicious flavor; vines moderately vigorous, very hardy and productive.

Martha. A seedling of the Concord, which it resembles in growth and hardiness; bunch of good size, and berry large, of pale green or light color; buttery, sweet, juicy, sprightly; ripens with Concord.

DWARF JUNEBERRY

Each 25 cts., $2.00 per dozen.

Osage. A variety introduced by us. Perfectly hardy and sure crop every year. Should be in every garden. Fruit resembles the Huckleberry. Of large size and fine appearance. Is excellent for canning or eating from the bush. Color reddish black with purple bloom when fully ripe.

Prof. Budd states in an article on Juneberries in the *Rural Life* of April 14, '92, as follows: "The best varieties we have tried is the one grown by C. F. Gardner of Osage, now called the *Osage*,—the Green County and two or three others received from Colorado. In reality none of them are superior to the *Osage* which has long been grown in Mitchell County."

BLACKBERRIES

75 cts. per doz. $2.00 per 100.

nyder. Extremely hardy, enormously productive, medium size; no hard sour core. One of the best blackberries grown.

Ancient Briton. Equal to the *Snyder* in size, quality and quantity of fruit and the canes are smaller, tougher and easier to cover.

BLACK RASPBERRIES

75 cts. per doz. $2.00 per 100.

Mammoth Cluster.. A well-known old variety, yet retained for its high quality and productiveness. Rich and juicy with much bloom; canes strong and vigorous. Medium to late.

Ohio. Highly esteemed for drying; plant hardy and prolific; fruit of good size and quality.

Shaffer's Colossal. This is described as "the largest" raspberry in the world, and as hardy as the Turner; it is of the class called hybrids by some; color of a purplish hue; ripens late.

RED RASPBERRIES

75 cts. per doz. $2.00 per 100.

Cuthbert. A variety of the greatest excellence. The canes are tall and vigorous and enormously productive; berries are large, conical, rich, crimson, very handsome and so firm that they can be shipped hundreds of miles by rail without injury. Flavor rich, luscious, best; commences to ripen moderately early, and holds on until others are gone.

Turner. A beautiful red berry of fine size and excellent quality; said to be the hardiest and most productive variety known.

STRAWBERRIES

Pistillate varieties marked with P, and need some perfect blossom variety every two or three rows. Except where otherwise noted, 50 cents per dozen, $2.00 per 100.

OUR GREAT SPECIALITY.

ardner's Seedling. Found at last, a staminate variety that is better than the Crescent in every respect. This is what we claim and can prove of this variety which we introduce for the first time this season. This is a chance seedling found on our grounds six

years ago. Plant resembles the Crescent but a much stronger grower. Fruits very heavy and resembles the Crescent, but is larger and ripens fully two weeks earlier. We own the entire stock of this valuable berry and will sell them only on the following conditions.

Parties buying must agree not to sell or give away any plants of the above named variety for five years. But simply raise them for their own use. Our stock is limited and those desiring plants should order early. Each, 50 cts.; $2.00 per 6. Only six plants sold to one person.

Bidwell. One of the best; abundantly productive; full average size; excellent flavor, and one of the best.

Mrs. Garfield. P. A seedling of the Crescent and named a few weeks before Garfield was shot. Plant a good grower and bearer. Fruit large and of good form, color and excellent quality.

Crescent. P. Medium; conical, bright scarlet; very uniform in size. A very beautiful berry. The best of the old sorts. Succeeds everywhere.

Hardy Out-Door Flower Department

ROSES

Each 50 cts., $4.50 per doz.

Hybrid Perpetual

General Washington. Brilliant rosy crimson; large and double; fine.

General Jacqueminot. Brilliant crimson scarlet; very showy and effective.

Paul Neyron. Deep rose color, good foliage; one of the best.

Marshall P. Wilder. A seedling of the Gen. Jacqueminot. Of vigorous growth and healthy foliage. Flowers are large, full and constant color, a rich cherry crimson; very fragrant and profuse bloomer.

Madam Plantier. Pure white, large and very double; free bloomer; fine for cemetary planting.

Climbers

Baltimore Belle. Pale blush, large, very double; flowers in clusters; one of the best.

Gem of the Prairie. Bright crimson, large and double. Fragrant.

Prairie Queen. Bright rose, very large and free bloomer; extra fine; splendid and popular.

Moss Roses.

Perpetual White. Pure white, blooms in large clusters.

Princess Adelaide. Blush, becoming quite pale; very double and well formed. The most vigorous grower of the mosses.

PAEONIAS

Herbaceous. For a brilliant display of bloom during May and June there is nothing that will equal the Pæonias, all of which are so profuse in bloom as to almost dazzle the eye. We have the largest double varieties grown. White, Red, Pink, Rose and Chinese; each 50 cts., per doz. $4.50.

CLEMATIS

Each $1.00, $5.00 per 6.

Jackmanii. A very profuse blooming variety, with flowers from four to six inches in diameter, of an intense violet, purple color, borne successionally in continous masses on the summer shoots.

Jackmanii Alba. A fine variety of the Clematis, with pure white flowers.

Henryi. Fine, large, pure white; one of the best.

Coccinea. Distinct from the other varieties; bright coral scarlet flowers.

FLOWERING BULBS

Should be Planted in the Fall.

Each 50 cts., $4.50 per doz.

Tigrinum. Double Tiger Lily. Bright orange scarlet with dark spots.

Lily of the Valley. The Lily of the Valley is as hardy as any plant can be, and when placed in open ground will increase rapidly.

Lillium Auratum. Gold Banded Lily of Japan. Very fine.

Lillium Excelsum. Flower of a delicate creamy yellow, very fragrant, and the best of the yellow lilies.

MISCELLANEOUS FLOWERS

Each 50 cts. $4.50 per doz.

Snowberry. A very pretty shrub, with clusters of rose colored flowers early in the spring, followed by waxy white berries, which hang on all winter.

Spiraea. The Spiraeas are all elegant, low shrubs, of the easiest culture, and their blooming extends over a period of three months.

Snowball. Very hardy, free blooming and has a beautiful foli age with large balls of pure white flowers.

Syringa. A hardy, rapid growing, free flowering shrub producing an abundance of highly scented blossoms.

Flowering Almonds. Rose and White. Beautiful shrub of dwarf habit, bearing abundantly in May, before the foliage appears, small double flowers, like minature roses, set closely along the branches.

Bleeding Heart. The showy heart shaped flowers of rosy crimson and silvery white of this plant are born on a graceful drooping raceme a foot or more in length. It is superb for the garden and perfectly hardy everywhere. Well known and very popular.

Honeysuckle. Pink and White. A handsome showy shrub, of spreading habit with deep green foliage remaining until late; flowers delicately perfumed, produced in May in great profusion.

Phlox. There has been great improvement in the Perenial Phlox in the past few years. We have the best varieties of the following colors, Red, White, Pink and Virgated. Are perfectly hardy everywhere

Syringa Vulgaris. Common Lilac. The well known, large, strong growing shrub, blooming early in the spring and bearing in profusion large, purple fragrant flowers.

Weigela. A beautiful shrub, with deep rose-colored flowers. Very hardy.

FOREST TREES.

		10	100	1000
European Larch,	2-3 ft.	$2 50	$15 00	$
"	1-2 ft.	1 50	12 00	
Am. White Ash	3-4 ft.	25	2 00	15 00
"	1-2 ft.	20	1 50	8 00
Soft Maple	4-5 ft.	50	2 50	12 00
"	3-4 ft.	30	1 50	8 00
"	2-3 ft.	20	1 00	6 00
Rock Elm	4-5 ft.	1 50	10 00	
"	3-4 ft.	1 00	8 00	
"	2-3 ft.	25	2 00	8 00

The above stock is very fine having been twice root pruned.

SHADE AND ORNAMENTAL TREES.

Mountain Ash. European, a very beautiful tree of medium size, with an erect stem, smooth bark and round head; covered during the fall and winter with bright scarlet berries; universally admired. 5-6 ft., 50 cts. each, $4.50 per dozen.

European Weeping Mt. Ash, The common well known sort; one of the finest lawn and arbor trees, covering a great space and growing rapidly. $1.50 each, $10.00 per doz.

Cut Leaved Weeping Birch, An elegant, erect tree, with slender drooping branches and fine cut leaves. A magnificent variety and worthy of a place on every lawn. $1.50 each, $10.00 per doz.

Kilmarnock Weeping Willow, An exceedingly graceful tree with large glossy leaves; one of the finest of this class of trees. $1.50 each, $10.00 per doz.

Wisconsin Weeping Willow, Of drooping habit, and perfectly hardy in the northwest. A fine tree. $1.00 each, $8.00 per doz.

Rock Elm, The finest of the Elms. Bark becomes covered with a fine dense cork with deep fissures. A grand park or shade tree. 5-7 ft. $ .75 each, $5.00 per doz.

Horse Chestnut, A very beautiful tree with round dense head, dark green foliage and an abundance of showy white flowers in early spring which forms into clusters of nuts. Very hardy. We have 30,000 of these trees raised from nuts picked in our Nurseries.

HORSE CHESTNUTS, CONTINUED

	each	doz.
6-10 ft.	$5.00	$
3-4 ft.	75	3 50
2-3 ft.	30	2 50
1-2 ft.	25	2 00
8-12 in.	20	1 50

EVERGREENS.

Seedlings and transplanted stock:

Norway Spruce. A recent writer has said of this tree that "It is so well known and so useful, that the term, *Evergreen*, has become almost synonymous with *Norway Spruce*." It usually attains the height of 120 to 150 feet and from 3 to 5 feet in diameter. It is probably the largest conifer in Europe. In Josiah Hoopes' Book of Evergreens, he says, "In a comparison of this tree with our native species, we must confess to having not one that will compare with this invaluable tree, for every purpose. Its great hardiness enables it to withstand the utmost rigors of every part of our country, and the ease with which it adapts itself to almost every soil, stamps it superior in that respect. Its gracefullness of outline, its rapidity of growth and dark verdure, also render it particularly pleasing and have placed it at the head of the list of Evergreens.." It makes the best wind break known, it forms a beautiful hedge bearing the shears with impunity, becoming very dense and retaining that peculiar dark green color so universally admired. The wood is very valuable; white, and quite elastic.

	each	doz.	100	1000
1 yr. seedlings	$ 03	$ 20	$1 50	$5 00
2 yr. "	05	30	2 00	10 00
Twice transplanted and root pruned.				
1-2 ft.	25	2 00	15 00	
2-3 ft.	30	2 50	20 00	
3-ft.	35	3 00	25 00	

Balsam Fir. This tree grows from 40 to 80 feet high, and forms a compact, conical tree of regular outline and rapid growth. It has long been a popular ornamental tree.

Makes a fine hedge.	each	doz.	100	1000
1 yr. seedlings	$ 03	$ 20	$1 50	$5 00
Twice transplanted and root pruned.				
1-2 ft.	25	2 00	15 00	
2-3 ft	30	2 50	20 00	

Scotch Pine. This tree, often called Scotch Fir, is probably the most useful and numerous, as well as the most familiar, of all the European species. It is, in its native country, what the White Pine is with us. Throughout the central countries of Europe, this specie forms vast forests. In those countries the Scotch Pine attains a height of 100 feet, and is frequently met with, five feet in diameter. It is one of the fastest growing trees of the genus; its rapidity of growth, great hardiness, and the facility with which it may be grown on almost all soils, has rendered this tree a great favorite with tree planters. It is of great value for timber, and makes first-class wind breaks.

The above cut shows one of our groves of this valuable tree eighteen years old from the seed.

	each	doz.	100	1000
1 yr. seedling	$ 03	$ 20	$1 50	$5 00
2 yr. "	05	30	2 00	10 00
Twice transplanted and root pruned.				

Address GARDNER & SONS, Osage, Iowa.

	each	doz.	100	1000
1-2 ft.	20	1 50	12 00	
2-3 ft.	25	2 00	15 00	

White Pine. The White Pine forms a large tree, from 100 to 160 feet in height. When grown in extensive forests, it generally presents a tall, naked stem devoid of branches for at least two-thirds of its length, thus affording valuable logs. When cultivated for ornament the real beauty of this tree becomes apparent, and it takes a high rank in landscape gardening. It is extremely hardy, but should never be planted in wet, undrained subsoil. Select good corn ground or any place that is naturally or artificially drained. In addition to its great value as a timber tree, it makes the best wind break known.

	each	doz.	100	1000
1 yr. seedling	$ 03	$ 20	$1 50	$5 00
2 yr. "	05	30	2 00	10 00
Twice transplanted and root pruned.				
8-12 in.	20	1 50	12 00	
1-2 ft.	25	2 00		

Thuja, American Arbor Vitae. This tree in ornamental plantations, bears a conspicuous part; for not only do they form desirable specimen trees, but are very useful in forming screens and hedges. They bear the knife or shears with perfect impunity, the plants thickening up to a degree of density rarely surpassed by any other evergreen. Its timber is very valuable. It grows about 50 feet in height and forms a handsome, conical tree, with lower branches resting on the ground. It is one of the most hardy and desirable species for small places, owing to the ease with which it is cultivated and its exceedingly rapid growth. Posts made from this tree last from 35 to 40 years. It yields a pungent, aromatic oil; and the whole plant when slightly disturbed, emits a peculiar, but very pleasant, spicy fragrance. Its value as a hedge plant is now fully appreciated, both in Europe and America.

	each	doz.	100	1000
1 yr. seedlings	$ 03	$ 20	$1 50	$5 00
2 yr. "	05	30	2 00	10 00
Twice transplanted and root pruned.				

	each	doz.	100	1000
8-12 in.	15	1 00	10 00	
1-2 ft.	25	2 00		
2-3 ft.	35	2 50		

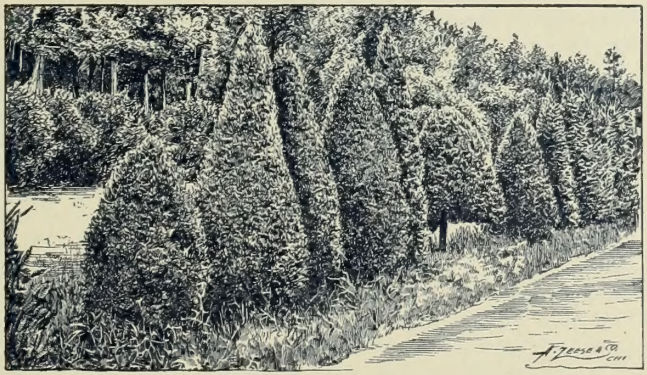
Platt River Red Cedar. A much finer tree than the common Red Cedar. It is a faster grower, more upright in habit and has a beautiful silvery foliage. 1-2 ft. $ 30 each, $2 50 per doz.

Northern Red Cedar. Our common native variety, too well known to need description here.

1 yr. seedlings	$ 03	$ 20	$1 50	$5 00
2-3 ft. transplanted	35	2 50		

Hemlock Spruce. This is emphatically a northern tree. Throughout our northern border and in the British Possessions, it forms vast forests, stretching for hundreds of miles, and is frequently unassociated with any other specie, but sometimes found in company with other trees. It forms a tall tree from 70 to 100 feet in height. The long, slender branches, drooping gracefully to the ground, present so beautiful a picture that it is indeed difficult to surpass it; and in fact, this tree now ranks as one of the most beautiful of all the conifers. As a screen, it is greatly admired, and as it bears the shears well, grows thriftily, is of a dark green color and very dense, it will increase in the estimation of the planter and be planted more extensively. 4-6 ft. fine specimens, $1 00 each.

FANCY SHEARED EVERGREENS



Address GARDNER & SONS, Osage, Iowa.

We are the only Nurseries that grows these beautiful trees. We have them in all shapes and sizes. They can be kept in any shape desired by shearing once a year. For a novelty in Park, Lawn or Cemetary trees, they cannot be beat. If you are looking for something fine, in ornamental stock, these are just what you want.

The foregoing cut shows a few sheared Cedar, Spruce and Fir along the main entrance of our Nursery Park.

Red Cedar, 3-8 ft., $1 per ft.
Norway Spruce, 2-4 ft , $1 per ft.
Arbor Vitae, 3-4 ft., $1 per ft.
Balsam Fir, 2-3 ft., $1 per ft.

We furnish the above in pairs, the same shape and size, when desired. Order a pair and you will never regret it.

HEDGE PLANTS.

To secure a good hedge it is necessary to plant well. Dig a deep wide trench, and work the soil thoroughly about the roots. Press the ground firmly, and mulch heavily for a distance of two or more feet on either side, according to the size of the plants. This is especially necessary with *Evergreens*, and all exposure of the roots to the sun and air must be strictly avoided.

We recommend the following varieties for Evergreen hedges. Norway Spruce, Balsam Fir, Arbor Vitae and Red Cedar. See descriptions and prices elsewhere.

BARBERRY HEDGE PLANT.

The great hedge plant for the north.. Perfectly hardy, makes a first-class fence and bears fine fruit for preserves.

	each	10	100
1 yr.	$ 02	$ 10	$1 00
1-2 ft.	10	75	6 00
2-3 ft,	15	1 00	8 00
3-4 ft.	20	1 50	10 00

The following is what Prof. J. L. Budd, of Ames, Iowa, says in the Iowa State Register after a visit to our Nurseries last summer.

EVERGREENS ON THE NORTHERN PRAIRIE: Gardner & Sons, of Osage, Mitchell county, Iowa, say in their catalogues:

"Come and inspect our groves of pine, larch, and other trees, and see what can be done in the way of growing forests on *bleak prairie land.* We grow evergreens from seed on our own grounds. We grow them by the millions. Millions of wild evergreens are pulled up and shipped every year from our northern forests; such as white pine, balsam fir, blue spruce, hemlock spruce, and arbor vitæ. These are sold by men who describe them as being as good as or better than nursery grown trees. This is an unmitigated falsehood, as all who have been so unfortunate as to purchase will testify. Plant nursery grown trees and you will become convinced that they are as easily grown as cottonwoods. The only secret in handling evergreens is to keep the roots moist, every second, from the time they are taken up until they are planted again."

In a general way we believed this story of the tree growing on the great open prairie of Mitchell county, but a careful inspection last week was still more convincing. The original ten acres are on an open and nearly level prairie. It stands out at this time like an oasis in the desert with a solid wall of evergreen from twenty to forty feet around its edges. Within the walls in the grove portion is found a carpet of fallen conifer leaves, the smell of the great northern pineries that is an antidote to hay fever, and we can readily suppose that the breath of the blizzard never enters. Within are found beds of conifer seedlings literally by the million, and in vacant spots on this plot, and others in the neighborhood, are found transplants in every stage of development, from three years old up to those rather too large to handle safely. Possibly the money motive had something to do with the start in the business, but we can safely say that Mr. Gardner and his wide awake sons are true lovers of the trees and are truly proud of the results they have reached on the open expanse of the northern prairies. Quite unconsciously, too, they have been doing for many years a missionary work. Far and near the home makers have been trying to imitate the transformation of prairie wrought by Mr. G. Each million of the beautiful larches and evergreens scattered on the northern prairies is doing more towards making the homes homelike than a whole century of book or newspaper talk and ad-

vice. As evergreen growing from seed on common, level, black soiled prairie is not common at the west, a word in regard to their methods may have interest. He uses the common lath screens for cover and scatters sand freely when the plants are above ground. His only innovation is the use of evergreen needles or leaves as a cover over the beds while the seed is germinating. When the plants begin to show the inch or more of evergreen needles is raked into the paths and the sand sowing begins. His main drawback has been the eating of the seeds—even after the plants appear above ground—by the thousands of birds which his trees have gathered.

NORWAY SPRUCE HEDGE:—On the grounds of Mr. Gardner may be seen the finest specimen of Norway Spruce hedge I have seen west of New York. On the grounds of Ellwanger & Barry, at Rochester, N. Y., may be seen hedges and specimen trees thirty or more years old which are not more than five feet in height, yet perfect modles of symmetry and beauty. But in the drier air of the west it has not been thought possible to dwarf the Norway spruce in this way. But the hedge on Mr. G.'s grounds is as handsome as any hedge of the same age formed from the white spruce. It will be interesting to examine this hedge ten years later if it continues to have good care.

WRITE FOR ESTIMATES TO

Gardner & Sons

Osage, Iowa